

The RAYMOND RECORDER HISTORY OF RAYMOND

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S. J. WEAVER, Editor

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By ELIZABETH KING

We drove by team to Raymond, where we spent our first night in Canada in the home of L. H. Holbrook and wife Alsina. This home was later sold to Wm. Redd and is at present occupied by Irene Redd Jensen and family.

The next morning as we followed the wagon tracks over the prairie in the light buggy on our way to Owen and Margaret King's home we were not unhappy but a feeling of quiet and strange loneliness crept over us. We were overwhelmed by the vastness of the grass covered prairies as far as the eye could see. No houses, no fences, no trees, no sign posts, no telephone poles, no land marks of any kind—just green prairie land every where. It was a beautiful sight the stillness and vastness of which is etched in memory. Living as we had in the valleys of the mountains of Utah and Idaho, the sudden change of boundless green beauty was indescribable.

After an enjoyable visit with Owen and Margaret King we left for the home of President Charles Ora Card, president of the Alberta Stake and his charming wife Zina (Young) Card affectionately called Aunt Zina by all who knew her. After Elders King and Burton reported for their missionary labors, President Card proceeded to call me as a missionary to travel with my husband and Elder Burton from Mt. View in the northwest through all towns to Stirling in the eastern part of the Alberta Stake.

President Card and "Aunt Zina" were very kind to the missionaries and made them feel that the latch key was always out for them.

On one of their return visits to the Card home, Joseph, then a young lad of 16 years was sitting on the back of a chair reading a book. Elder King remarked "Well, Joseph, judging from the position you are in that book must be very interesting." "Interesting," exclaimed young Joseph. "Why in a few minutes my hair will be standing straight up." Since then Joseph Y. Card has become one of Cardston's most prominent figures both in civic and church affairs. Until recently he was president of western Canadian Mission. He is still taking an active part in Cardston.

On another visit to the Card home Aunt Zina set Elders King and Burton to work picking feathers from wild ducks which caused much merriment. Everyone was busy and happy in the lovely new one year old brick home of president Card and "Aunt Zina".

John W. "Johnny" Woolf's large rock home was headquarters for the missionaries. J. W. Woolf was first M.L.A. for Cardston and served in the legislature both at Regina, capital of the northwest territories and at Ed-



monton. This same home was occupied by the Walter Pitchers of Cardston, a few years ago.

"Johnny" and wife "Cindy" (Lucinda) were very friendly and many happy hours were spent in this home in music and song. Elder King and Frank Love, brother of "Cindy" played the mandolins while the writer played the piano, the rest joined in song.

Many happy days and nights the missionaries spent in the home of Edward J. Wood and his good wife. After filling missions in the South Sea Islands, which occupied more than nine years of his life, President Wood came to Canada with his family in September 1901. Heber J. Grant who at that time was a member of the Twelve had been called to open the Japan mission and suggested that E. J. Wood go with him but President Lorenzo Snow sent him to Canada instead at the request of president C. O. Card to come up and help in the Stake in putting through the question of a co-operative Mercantile business institution and to be made a member of the High Council in the Alberta Stake. He was also made president of the Ward Y.M.M.I.A. We shall never forget the inspiration and help we received from this cheerful optimistic kind friend to us as missionaries and strangers in a strange land. In 1902 when President Card had to be released on account of his health, Heber S. Allen was appointed to succeed him. Theodore Brandley and E. J. Wood were counsellors and in 1903 the Stake was divided and H. S. Allen was called to preside over the Taylor Stake and E. J. Wood to preside over the Alberta Stake which position he held for 39 years.

After tracing and holding cottage meetings for some time in Cardston we left that field of labor for Mt. View where a meeting was held Sunday afternoon. The wind was blowing at a terrific velocity and at one time during the services the walls and ceiling of the little log church

swayed and creaked as if it would fall asunder.

People in the congregation jumped to their feet and Elder King, who with Elder Burton and myself were sitting behind the pulpit, jumped to his feet when some one called out: Elder King, you've forgotten your bride. This seemed to break the tension and the meeting went on to its conclusion.

This wind did much damage in Mountain View and the M.L.A. missionaries were wont to receive some of the stories about the winds in Canada such as: "Chickens often were blown up against board fences and remained there until they starved to death".

The writer was on the verge of having pneumonia after this wind storm and was carefully nursed back to health by Mrs. Alvin O. Rich who lived in Mountain View at that time and whose family later moved to Magrath where Alvin O. Rich passed away a few years ago. I have called Eliza Rich my Canadian mother and now that she is ill in our local hospital I would like to tenderly nurse her as she did me in 1901.

Alvin Rich taught school in our old home town in 1877 when Louis King then a young lad, attended his school. Fourteen years later in Mt. View Mr. Rich called this same old roll and Louis answered "present".

After leaving Mt. View the party visited the towns in between and then went back to Cardston and on November 9th, 1901 the Alberta Stake Superintendent of the M.L.A. J. W. Low and wife Lucinda, the Stake President Y.L.M.I.A. Zina Y. Card, Elders Burton King and wife Elizabeth left Cardston for the purpose of organizing the M.L.A. in Raymond. Upon arriving we were invited to eat supper in the restaurant of H. A. Jones where we met Apostle John W. Taylor and "Uncle Jesse" Knight. We all ate out of tin plates and drank from tin cups but what difference did that make? The food was excellent, especially the juicy tender beef steaks. What the little band of pioneers lacked in comfort and convenience they made up in friendliness service and good will.

There were many important things to be done in the little hamlet at this time and days and evenings meetings were held from Nov 8 to Nov 10 inclusive.

It was Sunday November 10, 1901 as has heretofore been recorded that we all met in the Store of Chas. McCarty where Raymonds first bishop presided over his first meeting and where the young men's and young women's mutuals were organized.

In the evening a meeting was held in Stirling where Zina Y. Card, Mr. and Mrs. Woolf, Elders Burton, King and Elizabeth King were the speakers. The party stayed at the homes of Theodore Brandley, John Gordon and Mark Cannon. After visiting the homes of the saints and holding cottage meetings they returned to head quarters. On one of these trips the writer's pretty new hat blew off in a Canadian wind, true to type then as now, and began rolling across the

frozen prairies headed for points east at a speed known only to prairie winds. The precious hat was never seen again.

Elders Burton, King and wife were released as missionaries the latter part of March 1902. Then Burton left at once for his home in Utah. We packed our trunks ready to return home when a letter was received from Thomas O. King Sr. saying he felt strongly impressed to advise us to remain in Canada as there were more opportunities for young people in a new land. Upon the strength of that letter we unpacked our belongings and remained in Canada.

In the spring of 1902 T. O. King Jr. and Louis D. went into the Mercantile business. In the fall September 16 Wm. Wood, butcher and father of President E. J. Wood of Cardston was invited to the home of L. D. King for dinner but the storm got there first with his fine baby boy. At this time D. H. Elton was editor of the Cardston News. The following was clipped from his paper:

"We understand that a stranger walked into King Bros. at Raymond last Wednesday and inquired, 'What is the price of prunes?' '12 cents' replied the genial Louis. 'What is sugar worth?' the customer asked. '12 cents', 'and butter?' '12 cents' and fruit?' '12 cents' Well said the visitor, Is this a 12 cent store? Oh explained manager King, 'I was meditating upon that 12 pound boy which arrived at my house yesterday' The inquirer laughed and the band played 'A' hail the King'— (To be continued)

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